Proposed Amendment—Not for entry --Serial Number: 09/176,639

1-51 (cancelled)

52. (currently amended): A capacitive touch pad system comprising:

a sensor layer;

an insulative layer disposed over said sensor layer; and

a conductive touch layer disposed over said insulative layer, wherein said sensor layer, said insulative layer and said conductive touch layer are configured to form a capacitor with a conductive object when a user places said conductive object proximate said sensor layer, said formed capacitor having a capacitance determined in part by the conductive touch layer and the conductive object, and wherein the conductive touch layer has a conductivity ~~selected~~ configured to create an image of said conductive object that is larger than an area of contact of said conductive object to thereby increase the capacitance of the formed capacitor when contacting the conductive touch layer and facilitate sensing of the capacitance to determine a position of the conductive object.

53 (previously presented): The touch pad system of claim 52, wherein said image of said conductive object is about the size of a finger when said area of contact is defined by a conductive stylus tip.

54 (previously presented): The touch pad system of claim 52, wherein said conductive touch layer comprises a conductive material disposed in a plastic carrier.

55 (previously presented): The touch pad system of claim 54, wherein said conductive material comprises carbon powder.

Proposed Amendment—Not for entry --Serial Number: 09/176,639

56 (previously presented): The touch pad system of claim 52, wherein said insulative layer, said conductive touch layer and said sensor layer are transparent, and wherein a display is positioned beneath said sensor layer and images from the display are viewable through said sensor layer, said insulative layer and said conductive touch layer, said display configured to provide visual feedback to a user of the touch pad system.

57 (previously presented): The touch pad system of claim 52, further comprising:

a bezel disposed over said conductive touch layer and covering a perimeter of said conductive touch layer, wherein said bezel is configured to limit edge distortion effects by preventing the conductive object from contacting the conductive touch layer at the perimeter.

58 (previously presented): The touch pad system of claim 52, wherein the touch pad system is configured to compensate for edge distortion by use of a correction function applied to measured conductive object positions during operation of the touch pad system.

59 (previously presented): The touch pad system of claim 58 wherein the correction function is generated by measurement of conductive object positions at multiple locations on said conductive touch layer, tabulation of said measurements of said conductive object positions, and development of a mathematical function from said tabulation.

60 (previously presented): The touch pad system of claim 52, wherein the touch pad system is configured to distinguish an identity of the conductive object by determining a change in the capacitance over a selected time period when the conductive objective is positioned proximate the conductive touch layer, wherein the a variable change in capacitance over the selected time period corresponds to a finger determination and a substantially constant capacitance over the selected time period corresponds to a stylus determination.

Proposed Amendment—Not for entry --Serial Number: 09/176,639

61 (previously presented): The touch pad system of claim 52 wherein the conductive touch layer is configured to produce a visual mark of the conductive object contacting said conductive touch surface.

62 (previously presented): The touch pad system of claim 52 wherein the conductive touch layer has the conductivity selected such that the image has an area at least four times larger than the area of contact of said conductive object.

63. (previously presented): A capacitive touch pad system comprising:

a sensor layer;

an insulative layer disposed over said sensor layer; and

a conductive touch layer disposed over said insulative layer, wherein said sensor layer, said insulative layer and said conductive touch layer are configured to form a capacitor with a conductive object when a user places said conductive object proximate said sensor layer, said formed capacitor having a capacitance determined in part by the conductive touch layer and the conductive object, and wherein the conductive touch layer comprises conductive carbon disposed in epoxy and has a conductivity selected to create an image of said conductive object that is at least four times larger than an area of contact of said conductive object to thereby increase the capacitance of the formed capacitor when contacting said conductive touch layer and facilitate sensing of the capacitance to determine a position of the conductive object.

64 (new): The touch pad system of claim 52, wherein the touch pad system further comprises a means of distinguishing an identify of the conductive object.

65. (new): The touch pad system of claim 64 wherein said means for distinguishing said identity of said conductive object comprises a means based on a size of said image.

66. (new): The touch pad system of claim 64 wherein said means for distinguishing said identity of said conductive object comprises a means based on a detected change in capacitance, wherein said detected change in capacitance is variable over a time period for a finger proximate said conductive touch layer and said detected change in capacitance is substantially constant over a time period for a stylus contacting said conductive touch layer.

67. (new): The touch pad system of claim 64 wherein said means for distinguishing said identity of said conductive object comprises a means based on a rate of change of a detected change in capacitance, wherein a stylus produces an immediate full strength detected change in capacitance upon contacting said conductive touch layer and a finger produces a gradually increasing detected change in capacitance as said finger approaches contacting said conductive touch layer.